



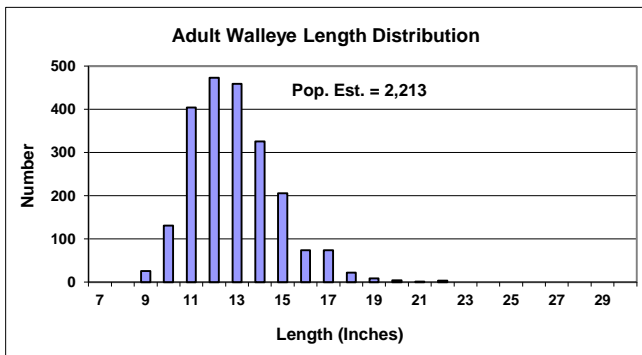
**WISCONSIN DNR  
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET**

**LAKE:** BIG LAKE

**COUNTY:** ONEIDA

**YEAR:** 2014

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Big Lake, Oneida County, from May 6 through May 21, 2014, to primarily assess the walleye and muskellunge populations. Big Lake is a drainage lake within the Three Lakes chain of lakes with a sand, muck, and gravel substrate and a naturally-reproducing walleye population. It has a surface area of 865 acres and a maximum depth of 27 feet.



\* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye and walleye of unknown sex  $\geq 15$  inches long.

**Walleye**



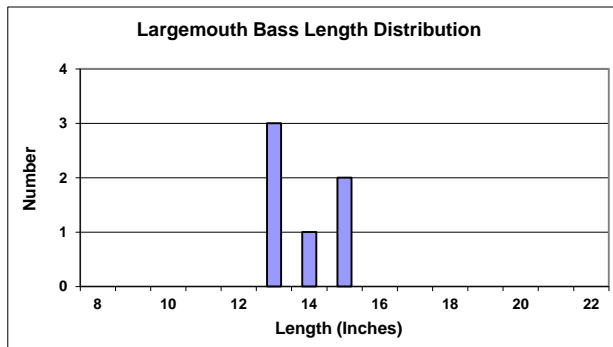
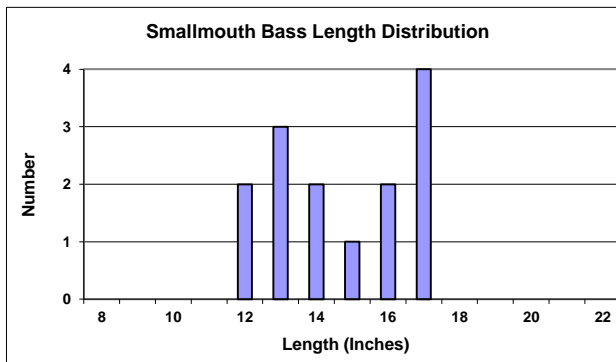
A mark-recapture survey of Big Lake's adult walleye population was conducted from 5/06-5/09, 2014. During 2 days of fyke netting, 898 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. A crew sampled Big Lake with an electro-fishing boat on May 9 and captured 146 adult walleye. During electro-fishing 40% (58 of 146) of captured adult walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. The largest walleye we captured was a 22.5-inch female.

Based on those results, Big Lake was estimated to contain 2,213 adult walleye (2.6 /acre). An estimated 18% (393 of 2,213) of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger.

**Smallmouth Bass**



Smallmouth bass were not a primary target of our survey of Big Lake. Sampling occurred prior to peak smallmouth spawning. However, we did capture 14 smallmouth bass, 8 inches or larger, during fyke netting and electro-fishing. Of those smallmouth captured, 64% (9 of 14) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest smallmouth captured was 17.7 inches long.



**Largemouth Bass**



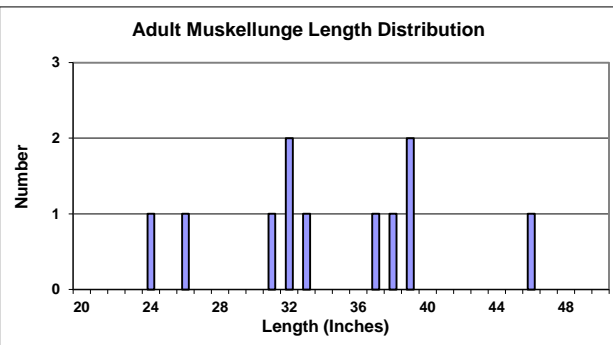
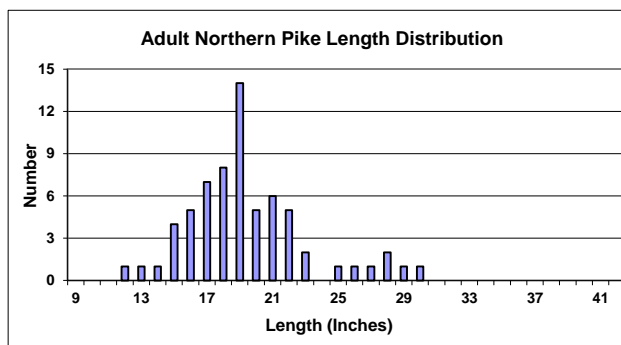
Largemouth bass were also not targeted during our survey of Big Lake. However, we incidentally captured 6 largemouth bass, 8 inches or larger, during fyke netting and electro-fishing. Of those largemouth captured, 50% (3 of 6) were 14 inches long or larger. The largest largemouth captured was 15.4 inches long.

## Northern Pike



From May 6 through May 21, 2014, 66 adult northern pike were captured in fyke nets fished in Big lake. Of the adult northern pike captured 91% (60 of 66) were less than 26 inches long. The largest northern pike captured was a 30.5-inch female.

\* Note: Adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and northern pike of unknown sex  $\geq 12$  inches long.



## Muskellunge



During our fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Big Lake, 11 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the muskellunge captured, 9% (1 of 11) were 40 inches long or larger. The largest muskellunge captured was a 46.3-inch female.

\* Note: Adult muskellunge are defined using PSD stock size as all sexable muskellunge and muskellunge of unknown sex  $\geq 20$  inches long.

## Other Species

In addition to the game fish mentioned above, 10 species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electro-fishing sampling of Big Lake. Yellow perch, black crappie, and pumpkinseed were common in our fyke net catches. Also caught were moderate numbers of bluegill, rock bass, and white sucker. Other species sampled included yellow and black bullheads, burbot, and golden shiner.

A creel survey will be conducted on Big Lake throughout the 2014-15 fishing season to get estimates of fishing effort and angler harvest. Creel clerk Ben Hines will count and interview anglers and examine their catch. The information gathered will be used to estimate fishing effort and angler harvest.

**Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Big Lake, Oneida County, 2014-15**

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 3 - March 1	2	No min. length but only 1 fish over 14" allowed
Largemouth Bass	May 3 - March 1	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth Bass	May 3 - June 20 (C&R) June 21 - March 1 (Harvest)	5 in total with LMB; harvest season only	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 24 - Nov. 30	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 3 - March 1	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Big Lake is included above (Table 1). While the regulatory information provided was current at the time the surveys were conducted, it is not comprehensive and should not be used as a substitute for the current fishing regulation pamphlet. You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license, or download a copy from our web site at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations/>

This report is interim only; data and findings should not be considered final. Results of creel surveys should be available by June 2015. Watch for survey summaries at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/north/trtysprngsrvys.html> or contact:

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